GAMBLERS' TRICKS.

which Professionals Pluck Their (From the Philadelphia Times.)

No one looks upon a professional gambler as a shining example of honesty, but only few people know what crooked sharpers most professional gamblers are, or the ingenious mechanical contrivances which they employ to aid them in "winning" the dollars of their victims. The man who makes gaming a profession rarely or never depends upon luck for his existence. In faro, roulette, monte, hazard, and in all other games known to the gentle-mer of the green cloth, there is a certain well-understood "percentage" in favor of the proprietors. This is understood by all who play, but it is so triffing that they are willing to pay it for the privilege of hazarding their meney. There is another "percentage" in all of these games as played at many places that is only understood by the professional dealers, and is never sus-

pected by the players.

In the game of faro the known percentage is very small. When two cards of the same denomination come out of the silver-plated "dealing-box" together, the dealer takes one-half of the bets which happen to be on that card on the "layout." Sometimes an entire deal is rarely happens more than twice in a deal, so that the visible percentage is quite small; so trifling, in fact, that if a faro game is dealt fairly it must have

an almost unlimited capital or eventually become bankrupt.
It is to guard against this mishap and to make the game a profitable one that the unknown percentage is intro-duced. To accomplish his purpose the gambler has both the cards and the dealing-box "fixed." This "fixing" process of the cards is done as follows: A new pack is used, and one in which every card is exactly of the same size to a hair's breadth. There is an almost imperceptible difference in the sizes of the cards in nearly all cheap packs, so that the gambler buys for his purpose expensive cards that have been "squarespecially for faro. The first step in "fixing" is to separate the low and and high cards; that is, to put in separate piles all ranging from the ace to the six, and from the eight to the king. The seven being neither high nor low is equally divided, two sevens being put with the high and two with the low cards. Then with a pair of sharp shears, made especially for the purpose, the gambler clips a thin slip from the end of each card. The high cards are clipped in this way from the upper right-hand corner to a point on the lower edge, about the thirty-second part of an inch from the lower righthand corner. The low cards are clipped in the same way, except that the gam-bler commences at the lower right-hand for it." corner and clips to a point on the upper edge near the right corner. The cards now are wider at one end than at the

except to the touch. The cards are

the wide ends of the high cards and

the wide ends of the low cards at op-

posite ends of the pack. It is an easy

so draw all of the high cards into one

hand and the low ones into the other.

When the game is in progress the

dealer shuffles the cards thoroughly,

and then in this way separates the high

from the low. Next he so shuffles them

as to "sandwich" each low and high

card, and when the pack is in the deal-

ing-box they should come out alternately. This wouldn't suit the dealer at all, as he must not only know just how the cards are arranged, but at the same time have perfect control over them. In order that he may have this power a specially arranged dealing-box is procured. The ordinary dealing-boxes have a slit in the side just wide enough to admit of one card passing through it at a time; the special boxes have a slit wide enough to allow two cards to pass wide enough to allow two cards to pass the General's biceps curiously. Then, ple contrivances, all the dealer has to with an expression of great contemp do is to watch where the bets are and he exclaimed, in the Indian tongue: win every time by either shoving out one card or two, as occasion requires. If a player bets that a high card will win, the dealer can very easily make it lose or vice versa. Of course the gamekeeper is a confederate, and at a sign from the dealer can tell how to arrange the "cases" so that they will tally with the cards that are out. This is what is called a "brace game," probably be-cause it can only be successfully worked by a "brace" of rogues. Thousands of faro-players who think that

luck is always against them are simply victims of the "brace game." Dealing-boxes and cards prepared in this way can be procured from a Chicago firm, which issues private catalogues to gamblers containing samples of marked cards, with directions for reading the backs. The firm also sells ments. roulette wheels so arranged as to make the red invariably win if the wheel is turned in one direction and the black Dodd, in San Franciscan. win if turned in the other. These are known among gamblers as "right and left" wheels, and are used with great success in many places.

The Creole's Favorite Weapon.

"What is a colchinard?" asked a re porter of a New Orleans sport. "Well, to answer your question, a colchinard is nothing but a short, two-edged sword, which is the favorite

weapon of the young creoles. The most of them are experienced fencers, and I have seen some pretty duels in have been in the habit of running it my day with them. One duel that had down, and that's why it is casting rea ludicrous termination I must tell you | flections on your nose .- Boston Cou-

"In the fall of 1860 a clerk in a cotton house in New Orleans named Bienvenu had a dispute with an English captain named Porter. Bienvenu was a dapper little Frenchman, while Porter was a big brawny fellow. The dispute arose about a cotton shipment.
The lie passed, several blows were struck, and the upshot of the affair was a challenge, which was accepted.
"Rienvenu was an expert swordsman,

and chose colchinard. Porter was also skilled in the use of the long sword, but had never had any experience with a short sword.

"The meeting took place near Span- tions every time.

ish Fort. After a few passes had been made the Englishman found out that the wiry creole was more than his match. He managed to parry a dangerous thrust made by Bienvenu, and sprang forward, throwing down the Frenchman's guard, and struck him a heavy blow with the hilt of his sword in the mouth, knocking out two teeth.

This settled the fight. Bienvenu said that a man who would fight that way was no gentleman, and he couldn't afford to pit his life against the life of a

common ruffian. "But Porter was no ruffian. He didn't mean to strike Bienvenu the way he did. The blow was purely accident-al, but it was lucky for him that it happened, for another round would have ended by Bienvenu running his weapon through him.

"By the way, however, Bienvenu had his dueling desires satisfied in 1874. He challenged a Kentuckian named Phillips to a duel. Phillips chose shotguns for weapons. The men met near Pass Christian, Mississippi, and Bien-venu was shot dead at the first fire. Phillips was untouched. - Denver

He Was Left in the Lurch.

"How did you come to give way to the tempter, my good brother?" played without this occurring, and it said a well-meaning minister who rarely happens more than twice in a was trying to do a little missionary work among Uncle Sam's col-ony in Canada, as he addressed an Indiana Trustee who had lately joined the gang. "From what you have told me, my dear sir, I infer that you were piously brought up."
"Yes," said the Hoosier, "I was raised

all right, and I was always a good average church member, too.

"But there was certainly a cause for your falling from grace, my good friend. Do you know what it was

"Yes, indeed, sir?" "Ah, you do? And what was it, my dear sir?"

"Divine neglect." "Ah! But I am at a loss to understand your meaning, my good friend. I fear you did not seek help from on high to sustain you in the hour of weakness."

"Well, that's just what I did do, but was left in the lurch." "Left in the lurch?"

"Yes, sir." "In what way, my dear sir?

"Well, you see, when Pollard pointed out to me how weak the law was, and how easy it would be for me to scoop in a big pile without much risk, I felt myself slipping from the rock on which I had been standing so long, and I knew at once I was a goner unless-"Unless what, my dear sir?"

"Unless I got help from above." "Very good-very good, my dear other. You should have prayed brother.

"That's just exactly what I did do." "Indeed!"

"Yes; I got right down on my knees other, but the difference in which is so and I prayed to the Lord to give me slight as to be almost imperceptible strength to resist the temptation." 'Very good. Go on-go on, my good

then shuffled, care being taken to keep | sir." "Well, sir, the Lord went right square back on me and down I went. He didn't hold me up worth a cent matter now for an expert manipulator after I'd looked into the law for myself, and found out that Pollard was right to catch the wide ends of the cards beabout it."-Chicago Ledger. tween his thumbs and forefingers, and

Gave Himself Away.

A gentleman who spent many years at Sun Dance, on the Apache reservation, says that about four years ago the white poulation got wind of a contemplated outbreak of the Indians, there being about six thousand dissatisfied braves able to take the war-path at a day's notice. Gen. Crook, the great Indian fighter, was at once sent for, and, to the extreme discomfiture of the Indians, arrived with his staff a few days after, in time to take part in a meeting of the chiefs in the councilhouse. The Gray Fox, as he was called by the Apaches, made a fatherly but significant address that had a depresswith an expression of great contempt, "This cannot be a great warrior. His

arm is like a squaw's. At this a white-haired chief named Fire Cloud angrily pushed the young brave aside, exclaiming:
"The Gray Fox fights with his head,

not his arm." "Then," retorted the young warrior, "he should be called the Gray Ram." The entire audience instantly fell upon the speaker, who was bound hand and foot after a desperate struggle, and searched. Under his moccasins were found a pair of yellow-topped tooth-pick shoes, while his buckskin shirt contained an eight-carat diamond cut out of the bottom of a goblet. He con-

He was tomahawked by the unanimous vote of the convention. - Derrick

The Reason.

Toper-It seems very strange to me. I have never been on bad terms with liquor, yet it is beginning to cast reflections on my nose. Friend-Indeed.

T.—Yes, sir, you can see for yourself.
F.—I see and understand the reason.

T .- You do?

F.-Certainly, my friend, certainly. You may say you have been good friends with liquor, but at the same time you have been in the habit of running it

In most cases failures are not hope less misfortunes, and, though often bitter, nevertheless profitable experiences, even if the lesson be severe. But few people learn so effectually what their capabilities are, or what "making one's way" means as by experience, and of these ninety-nine out of every hundred will be benefited in a greater or less degree for the reproof—it depending very much upon how well the knowl-edge gained is applied.

I am convinced that as an incentive for labor rivalry beats man's inspiraTRICKS ON THE TRACKS!

Dangers from Which Engineers Save the Public and Themselves.

[From the Railway Review.]

(From the Railway Review.)

One who is accustomed to railway traveling can scarcely realize how much he is dependent for safety upon the engineer. Added to the responsibility of their station, engineers are also in constant danger of accidents caused by the tricks of jealous rivals. This rivalry, it is said, sometimes prompts to the doing of utterly mean tricks. A Nickel Plate engineer, after his very first trip, was laid off because he had "cut out" all the bearings of his engine. He was reinstated, however, after he proved that some rival had filled his oiling can with emery. Another new engineer was suspended for burning out the flues of his boiler. Through grief at the loss of his position he died, and then a conscience-stricken rival confessed that he had put oil in the lank so that it foamed and showed water at the top gauze, when in reality there was scarcely a quart in the boiler!

when in reality there was scarcely a quart in the boiler!

These intense jealousies, together with the terrible anxiety incident to their work, have a terribly straining effect on the nerves, and statistics tell us that, though Locomotive Engineers may look strong and vigorous, they are not all a bearty class. Ex-Chief Engineer A. S. Hampton, Indianapotis, Ind. (Div. 143), was one of those apparently hearty men, but he says: "The anxiety, strain, and jolting came near finishing me." His sufferings localized in catarrh of the bladder, but he used Warner's safe cure faithfully for twenty weeks and now exclaims, "I am a well man." T. S. Ingraham, of Cleveland, Ohio, Assistant Chief Engineer, and other prominent members are also em-

of Cleveland, Ohio, Assistant Chief Engineer, and other prominent members are also emphatic in its praise.

The Locomotive Engineers' Brotherhood has 17,000 members and 240 divisions. Its headquarters is in Cleveland, Ohio, where Chief Engineer Arthur for twenty years has exercised almost dictatorial sway. It was organized in August, 1863, by the employes of the Michigan Central. It has given nearly raw million dollars to the widows and orly two million dollars to the widows and or-phans of deceased members.

Distribution of Forests.

The forests of the Atlantic and Pacific regions are dissimilar in the central parts of the continent, but are united in the north by a belt of subarctic trees which extends across from ocean to ocean above the 50th degree of latitude. At the south, also, the forests of the two regions are united by a narrow strip of the flora peculiar to the plateau of Northern Mexico. The great forests of the Atlantic region, which is that portion of the continent east of the Rocky Mountains, are divided into northern forest, lying wholly in the British Possessions, and generally above the 50th degree of latitude. The northern pine forest em-braces the Canadas, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, New England, New York, nine-tenths of Pennsylvania, and a narrow strip of Virginia, prolonged southward with the mountain chain like a wedge. It also embraces the north-ern half of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The coast pine forest begins at Norfolk, Va., and forms a belt about eighty miles wide along the coast to within a short distance of the Mississippi. Mexican flora form the Northern Mexican forest of Southern Texas. The rest of the great Atlantic region is covered with the duciduous forest of the Mississippi basin, which contains oak, hickory, walnut, magnolia and The cause of the absence of forests from the great plains of the Western States has never been discovered, but it is thought that the eastern forests once extended to the base of the Rocky Mountains, for the conditions of climate and soil in all of that treeless region are as favorable to forest growth as are those of the country further east. But the original forest once destroyed, the thick sod, the annual fires and the wind, unchecked by any northern barrier, would render a second growth slow and difficult. In regions where the annual burning has been stopped, trees have spread from the river bottoms to the uplands. The changes in some sections of the States and Territories of the far West, since the care of man has removed some of the sources of destruction, have been remarkable. Many prairies are fast losing their treeless character, and forests, protected from fire, are fast extending in every direction.

A Mother's Warning. "Where are you going, Johnnie?"
"Only over here a little ways."

"You aint going near the water?" "See that you don't, then. If you do I'll tell your father."

"Yes'm. "And if you go into the water and come home here to me drowned, I'll spank you till you can't stand."
"Yes'm."

"Now, mind." "Yes'm."

And thus it is all through vacation. -Boston Courier.

Those Happy Days. "Don't you remember me?"
"Can't say that I ever saw you be

"Don't you remember little Sammy Bambry, who used to steal your peaches and break your windows, twenty years

ago, right here in Austin?"
"Why, certainly, I remember you now very well, how you used to steal my peaches, and don't you remember how I caught you just as you were get-ting over the fence one day, and how I tanned your little hide for you?"
"You bet you did. Ah, those happy

days will never come again."-Texas

In this day and age of our Lord the majority only make a living anyhow, and many there are who are not so fortunate. 'Tis only now and then that any one person amasses great wealth. Don't make up your mind to become opulent without hard work, and you may be gratified if you can then keep your head above the high-water mark, amid the tribulations that for some good and sufficient reasons undoubted-ly are to be met with in every and all branches of business.

I DON'T believe that the majority of young men are naturally all bad. At any rate, if one-half the amount of encouragement were given them to do right by worthy people that is given them to do wrong by vicious and un-worthy people, the number of candi-dates for redemption could, I believe, be decidedly lessened.

* * Young or middle aged men, suffering from premature decline of power, however induced, speedily and radically cured. Illustrated book for 10 cents in stamps. World's Dispensary Medical Asso-ciation, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Secret of Exercising.

The secret of Exercising.

The secret of muscular recuperation is in stopping when fatigue begins. He or she who is not the fresher in body and mind for the exercise taken has had an everdose of what in proper measure would have been a benefit. The gain in strength is shown and felt in the increasing ability to do more and more without exhaustion. The measure of success is not in the greatness ure of success is not in the greatness of the feat accomplished but in the ease with which the exercise is indulged in, in the absence of exhaustion after

it. There are occasions frequent enough in which people in the struggle of life are forced beyond their power of endurance, and there is no need to carry into the pursuit of recreation the fatigue which exacting work imposes. -Philadelphia Ledger.

Ins and Outs.

Nothing is so productive of distressing seadaches as the tropical heat of summer. St. Jacobs Oil will remove them at once. The Late Husband.

South End, and was surprised to find his wife clad in black. "Why are you wearing these mourning garments?" he said, somewhat unstead-

A gentleman came home in the "wee

sma' hours ayout the twal," at the

"For my late husband," was the

significant reply.

He has been in the house at ten ever since.—Boston Budget.

Wall-Paper on Wood.

To make wall-paper stay smoothly upon an unceiled wall, first cover every crack with strips of old sheeting or similar stuff, torn into strips wide Perry Davis' Pain Killer enough to cover the cracks completely and adhere well to each edge. When this is dry, then paper. The expansion and contraction of the lumber will go on all the same, but behind the cloth, so that it will in no way interfere with the wall-paper.

When young I was too ambitious to get plenty of the "root," and, following out my inclinations, often overworked, and then put in a season of grunting, aided by "salts." But age is often accompanied by wisdom. Now I let others do the heavy work, while I do the grunting over the light work. Half the wisdom of life, I have found out, lies in not working all the time, unless you have to, without now and then a season of enjoyment.

"Sweet Maud Muller."

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Some one wants to know how to deaden the sound of a plano. One good plan would be to kill the player.—Boston Post.

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ARTISTIC ability may not be hereditary. but oftentimes drawing is sketching.—Texas

A Man in Ruins .- One of the most melancholy spectacles in the world is a human being shattered and broken down by the use of ardent spirits and tobacco. But the dispidation may be repaired, the ruin restored to perfect soundness, by a course of that most powerful of all vegetable invigor-ants, Dr. Walker's California Vinegar

WHEN the mercury falls we may anticipate the dude drop if it's an ice day.—Texas Sift-

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